

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 were pending. Claims 16-18 have been allowed. Claims 1-15 and 19-25 stand rejected. Claims 16-18 have been amended to correct typographical errors. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner that claims 1-15 and 19-25 are not patentable. However, claims 1-15 and 19-25 have been cancelled without prejudice in order to expedite prosecution. Claims 16-18 are pending upon entry of this amendment.


The Examiner and the undersigned attorney had a telephone conversation on October 26, 2004, during which they discussed the Information Disclosure Statement filed on November 10, 2003. The Examiner stated that he was unable to locate this Information Disclosure Statement. In order to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicants have enclosed a duplicate copy of this Information Disclosure Statement and a stamped postcard showing that the Information Disclosure Statement was received by the USPTO on November 12, 2003. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate consideration of the documents submitted with this Information Disclosure Statement by initialing the PTO-1449 form submitted therewith and attaching same to the next communication to Applicants.

The Examiner and the undersigned attorney had a telephone conversation on November 2, 2004, during which they discussed claims 16-18. Although claim 16 had already been allowed, the Examiner suggested amending it slightly. Applicants have amended claim 16 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are now allowable over the cited art of record and request that the Examiner allow this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in order to advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,
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